



PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

December 2, 2003      T. Miller  
Date      Tamra Miller

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Vishnu K. Agarwal	Attorney Docket No.:	501082.02 (98-0616.01)
Serial No.	: 09/652,994	Group Art Unit	: 2815
Filed	: August 31, 2000	Examiner	: Jesse A. Fenty
		Confirmation No.	: 4014
		Date of Notice of Allowance	: September 2, 2003
Title	: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE		

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Mail Stop Issue Fee  
Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS  
FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Further to the Examiner's statements in the Notice of Allowance dated September 2, 2003, regarding the status of previously filed Information Disclosure Statements, applicant notes that a Request For Consideration of Previously Filed Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements was filed on September 26, 2003, enclosing copies of the Supplemental

Information Disclosure Statements that were submitted on May 28, 2003 and June 23, 2003, as well as copies of the date-stamped return receipt postcards confirming receipt of these Supplemental Information Disclosure Statements prior to the mailing date of the Notice of Allowance. To date the signed PTO-1449's from May 28, 2003 and June 23, 2003, have not been received. In addition, along with payment of the Issue Fee on today's date, applicant is filing an additional Request For Consideration Of Previously Filed Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 7, 2003, which was filed in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98. Applicant respectfully requests copies of the signed PTO-1449 from each Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Additionally, while the combinations of elements recited in the allowed claims are allowable, the undersigned would like to point out that some or all of these individual elements may be broadened such that the resulting combination is still patentable. Applicant may elect to pursue such claims, or to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the present invention, through a continuation or reissue application, or through a reexamination proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,  
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